

## Lines to take, Q&A and background on escalation and intervention oral statement – 5 November 2024

**Redacted**

### Swansea Bay University Health Board

#### Maternity and neonatal services

- Maternity and neonatal services were escalated to enhanced monitoring by Welsh Government in December 2023 following a number of concerns about the service. Welsh Government officials continue to maintain oversight of the health board's maternity and neonatal services. This includes workforce data alongside a number of quality metrics as part of the enhanced monitoring escalation arrangements.
- Welsh Government is working with the health board to ensure it is taking a proactive approach to drive improvement, which includes ensuring the consistent safety of services.
- The current service which has been reinforced by the appointment of a new Director for the service.
- The midwife-led Birth Centre at Neath Port Talbot Hospital re-opened on Monday 16 September and the Home Birth Service was reintroduced from Monday 21 October 2024. These are positive improvements for the service.

#### Independent review on Maternity and Neonatal services in Swansea Bay

- The health board has commissioned an independent review to assess the quality and safety of its maternity and neonatal services, and the terms of reference for the review have been published on the health board website, following a listening period with families and staff.
- **Redacted** is a highly experienced midwife, and her appointment as interim Chair ensures the oversight panel can make decisions and discharge its responsibilities in line with the published terms of reference.
- The health board have given us clear assurances that the Independent Review is on track and will deliver. They confirmed that the clinical reviews have commenced, the feedback on the first tranche of reviews will take place on 11 November 2024 (approx. 30 cases). All remaining letters will have been sent by the end of October (approx. 120). The self-referral process is open but there have been no referrals made yet. Awareness raising is now underway. Engagement with Llais continues. Two reports will go to the November Board meeting, one covering the governance review and the second incorporating the work Llais have been undertaking.

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